On page 10:

below line 29, insert

-- The above-described method is illustrative of the principles of the present invention. Numerous modifications and adaptions thereof will be readily apparent to those skilled in this art without departing from the spirit and scope of the present invention.--.

On page 11:

delete lines 1-12.

IN THE CLAIMS:

On amended page 12:

in line 1, replace "Patent Claims" with --WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:--

Please amend claims 1-11 as follows:

1. (Amended) A method [Method] for overload protection for an exchange, comprising the steps of: [according to which the]

informing neighboring exchanges of said [an] exchange which detects an overload of itself [are informed] of a [the] level of [the] overload congestion via an overload [a] congestion value that is specified network-wide; [,]

[characterized in that]

computing, in one of said [a] neighboring exchanges [exchange], an effective congestion value [is computed] from [the] information of several of said overload congestion values, and;

[is used for] controlling [the] protective measures of said one of said neighboring exchanges [this neighboring exchange] with respect to a [the] congested exchange.

2. (Amended) A method [Method] as claimed in claim 1, further comprising the steps of:

[characterized in that]

transferring said [the] overload congestion value [is respectively transferred] in a call processing message; [,]

interpreting missing congestion information as an overload congestion value of 0 [whereby,] when a call processing message arrives without an overload congestion value, [the missing congestion information is interpreted as congestion value 0] and integrating said overload congestion value of 0 [is integrated] into said [the] computation of said [the] effective congestion value.

3. (Amended) A method [Method] as claimed in claim 1 [or 2], wherein said step of computing an effective congestion value further comprises the steps of:

[characterized in that]

forming an average value [said effective overload congestion value is computed in that], upon expiration of a definite time interval, [an average value is formed with the aid of] utilizing congestion values received during said definite [the] time interval; [,] and

utilizing said [this] average value [is utilized] to calculate said [the] current effective congestion value.

4. (Amended) A method [Method] as claimed in claim 1 [or 2], wherein said step of computing an effective congestion value further comprises the steps of:

[characterized in that]

computing [said current effective congestion value is computed in that], upon expiration of a time interval, a current effective congestion value [is computed] with the aid of:

an [the] average value of [the] overload congestion values received within said [the] time interval, and

an [of the] effective congestion value that was computed at an [the] end of an immediately [the] preceding time interval.

5. (Amended) A method [Method] as claimed in claim 1 [or 2], wherein said step of computing an effective congestion value further comprises the steps of: [characterized in that]

forming [the effective congestion value is calculated in that] time-interval-related average values [[A(j)] are formed] from [the] overload congestion values that are received in consecutive time intervals; [,]

weighting said [these] average values [are then weighted [w[j] · A(j)]]; and [,]

adding said [and lastly the] weighted average values [are added] over a time frame [[w[j] ·A(j)]], producing a summed weighted average.

6. (Amended) A method [Method] as claimed in claim 1 [or 2], wherein said step of computing an effective congestion value further comprises the steps of: [characterized in that]

[said effective congestion value is computed from the] utilizing a last effective congestion value and an [the] average value of [the] congestion values received within an immediately preceding [the last] time interval;

forming [in that, when said average value is greater than a specific first threshold value,] an effective congestion value [is formed] which is elevated by a specific first value relative to said [the] last effective congestion value when said average value is greater than a specific first threshold value; [,] and [,]

forming [when said average value is less than a specific second threshold value,] an effective congestion value [is formed] which is reduced by a specific second value relative to said last effective congestion value when said average value is less than a specific second threshold value.

7. (Amended) A method [Method] as claimed in claim 1 [or 2], further comprising the step of:
[characterized in that]

updating, [said effective congestion value is respectively updated] upon reception of a new overload congestion value, said [the] current effective congestion value being computed utilizing a [with the aid of the] previous effective congestion value and said [the] received congestion value.

8. (Amended) A method [Method] as claimed in claim 1 [one of the claims 1 to 7], wherein
[characterized in that]

said step of computing an effective congestion value comprises an effective congestion value [is] only [computed] when congestion has been established, said congestion being established [; that is,] when at least one positive congestion value has been received within a definite past time frame.

9. (Amended) A method [Method] as claimed in claim 1 [one of the claims 1 to 8], wherein
[characterized in that]
said congestion value is related to [a matter of] an ACL value in accordance with an ACC standard.

10. (Amended) A method [Method] as claimed [as claimed **[sic]**] in claim 1, wherein [one of the claims 1 to 9],
[characterized in that]

said protective measure [of a neighboring exchange is a matter of] comprises a measure selected from the group consisting of a denial of calls and [or] an alternate routing of calls.